

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Svendsen et al.

Application No.: 09/325,603

Filed: June 3, 1999

For:  $\alpha$ -Amylase Variants



Group Art Unit: 1652

Examiner: E. Slobodyansky

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed August 30, 2000. A Petition for a three-month extension of time is attached herewith. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1701 for the requisite fee and any other fee due and owing.

Please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 71 and 76-78. Please add the following new claims:

--79.(New.) A method of producing a variant of a parent alpha-amylase; wherein the parent alpha-amylase has an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% homologous to SEQ ID NO:13 when homology is determined by the GAP program (Genetic Computer Group, Version 7.0) using default values for GAP penalties; the method comprising:

- providing a three-dimensional structure of the parent alpha-amylase; wherein the three-dimensional structure has atomic coordinates corresponding to the atomic coordinates for SEQ ID NO:13 depicted in Appendix 1;
- identifying in the three-dimensional structure at least one structural part or at least one amino acid; wherein an alteration in the at least one structural part or the at least one amino acid is predicted to result in an altered property, wherein the altered

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